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COLONY OF MAURITIUS

Annual Report

OF THE

Mauritius College of Agriculture

for the year 1950

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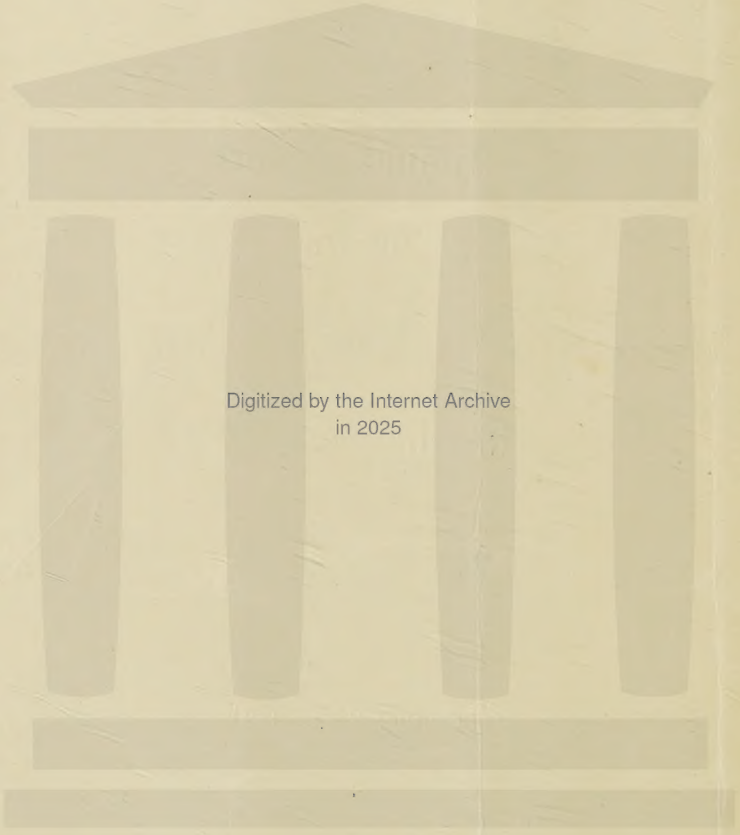

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Annual Report of the Mauritius College of Agriculture for the year 1950

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Mauritius College of Agriculture for the year 1950.

1. Admission, Entrance Scholarships and Number of Students

Enghteen candidates applied for admission to the College of Agriculture and sat the Admission Examinations which were held from 11th to 14th April, 1950.

Thirteen candidates satisfied the examiners and were admitted to follow as full-time students the normal three-year course.

Only one student came from Reunion Island, although, according to the terms of the Convention in force between the two islands, provision had been made for three to be admitted. The two vacant places were filled by Mauritian students who had passed the admission examinations.

Two entrance scholarships were awarded, to Messrs. F. Sauzier and K. Lutchmeenaraidoo who came out first and second with 70·7 per cent and 69·8 per cent of the maximum marks respectively. The scholarships awarded were of Rs. 25 p.m., together with free tuition, travelling, etc., and represented a substantial increase on the former value.

The total number of students at the College was 31, made up as follows:—

FIRST YEAR:	
14 new students, including 1 from Reunion, and 1 who repeated his 1st year	15
SECOND YEAR:	
9 students promoted from 1st year and 1 who repeated his 2nd year	10
THIRD YEAR:	
6 students promoted from 2nd year	6
TOTAL ...	31

In addition to the above, several members of the Junior Staff of the Department of Agriculture were admitted to follow approved courses as part-time students.

The Chemistry laboratories were used in the morning by five outside students in order to obtain the practical training necessary for the Pharmacists and Assistant Pharmacists examinations.

THE HONOURABLE
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

2. Terms—Attendance—Conduct

The College year began on 2nd May, 1950. The three terms included in the 1950 calendar year, making 34 weeks in all, were spread over the following periods:—

	weeks
9th January to 25th March	11
2nd May to 15th July	11
11th September to 2nd December	12
TOTAL ...	34

Students were very regular in attendance and their conduct was good. Their sense of responsibility and duty to the community is well developed and speaks highly in favour of their character.

3. Results of Examinations

The annual examinations were held between 3rd and 15th April and the results were as follows:—

FIRST YEAR:

Nine out of the ten students passed and were promoted to the second year.

SECOND YEAR:

Six out of the seven students passed and were promoted to the third year.

THIRD YEAR:

Seven full-time students one part-time student sat for the examination.

Five of the full-time students passed and two were referred in one subject. These two were granted the Pass Diploma after they had completed a subsequent examination in the subject in which they had previously failed.

The following shows the marks, rank and class of diploma obtained by the students at the end of their three-year course:—

Name of Student	*% for three years*	*Final Rank*	*Grade of Diploma awarded*
d'Arifat, M.	73·6	1	Honours
Bouvet, J.	70·9	2	Honours
Hardy, R.	65·7	3	Pass
Lagesse, R.	60 5	4	Pass
Davidsen, A.	58·3	5	Pass
Noël, P.	Referred	—	Pass
Hardy, M.	Referred	—	Pass

The part-time student, J. Leclézio, satisfied the examiners in all subjects and obtained 60·6 per cent of the maximum marks in the third year annual examinations.

M. d'Arifat, who came out first was awarded a scholarship tenable in England of the value of £435 p.a. for 4 years to read for a special degree in Chemistry and to do one year of post-graduate work in Applied Chemistry. Mr. d'Arifat left Mauritius in September and was able to start his studies in 1950 at the University College of Aberystwyth, Wales, to which he had been admitted.

Six candidates, five of whom were College graduates, sat for the City and Guilds examination in Sugar Manufacture.Three of the College graduates passed and obtained the second class certificate.

Once more, two candidates sat for the graduateship examination in Radio Engineering of the British Institution of Radio Engineers, which was held in November 1950.

4. Work and Conduct of Laureates

Mr. Guy Avice du Buisson has completed his course of studies at the Louisiana State University where he has graduated as a B.S. in Sugar Technology and Chemical Engineering. He intends to return to Mauritius by April, 1951.

Mr. Philip Robert Scott, who will have completed his studies at the same University by February 1951, will also return to Mauritius by April, 1951.

The following table shows the reports on the work and conduct of the laureates: —

Name	*Course*	*Where studying*	*Report on work and conduct*	*Termination of Studies*
Guy Avice du Buisson	Sugar Technology and Engineering	Louisiana Estate University	Very satisfactory	December, 1950
Roger Bouvet	Veterinary Science	Royal Veterinary College, London	Passed Pharmacology in May, 1950; work and conduct satisfactory	July, 1952
Philip Robert Scott	Sugar Technology and Engineering	Louisiana Estate University	Very satisfactory	February, 1951
Emmanuel Clement Vignes	Chemistry	Acton Technical College	Good work. Showing considerable progress and promise conduct; very good	July, 1952
Cyrille Desvaux de Marigny	Veterinary Science	Royal Veterinary College, London	Report not yet received	July, 1955
Marc de Labauve d'Arifat	Chemistry	University College, Aberystwyth	Report not yet received	July, 1955

5. Games and Athletics

The College football ground is used regularly by the students. It is hoped that with the increasing number of students who are yearly admitted, it will be possible to train a good Soccer Eleven which could enter tournaments

The College Volley Ball Team was invited to take part in the Dodo Club Volley Ball Cup Tournament.

The College hard court tennis championship for singles was won by R. Halbwachs of the second year, the runner up being C. Rey of the second year.

The annual sports were held on 18th June. As usual, the weather was inclement, but in spite of this individual performances were good. Tea was served to the guests after the meeting followed by a Students' Dance.

6. Reorganization of the College

The reorganization of the College had been felt necessary for some time and, working on the recommedation of the Economic Commission, the question was carefully studied and plans were made.

The Sugar Industry made the reorganization possible by increasing the cess on exported sugar from 3 cents to 5 cents per 100 kilos, thus providing funds for the implementation of the scheme.

This reorganization coincided with the 25th anniversary of the formal inauguration of the College of Agriculture (12th March, 1925), and it is gratifying to cast a look back and to consider the results achieved during the quarter of a century of the College's existence.

These results are highly creditable and are proof of the excellent work which the staff of the Department of Agriculture has done in connection with the vocational training which they have given to the students of the College. Our graduates have been able, thanks to it, to discharge their duties with devotion and in a highly efficient way both here and abroad, and have thus made the College of Agriculture better known more particularly in the Indian Ocean countries.

Though a skeleton full-time staff has been appointed, it is impossible for its members to teach all the subjects in the College curriculum, and it is most probable that for a very long time to come specialist officers of the Department of Agriculture will have to lecture in their special subjects. Thanks to that collaboration, the College students will receive the best possible training which will enable them to become prominent in Agriculture and in the Sugar Industry.

The full-time staff, with effect from 1st March, 1950, was as follows:—

Lecturer in Chemistry	Mr. J. R. Lagesse, B.Sc. (Lond.).
Lecturer in Physics and Mathematics	Mr. J. R. Latulipe, B.Sc. (Lond.).
Lecturer in Sugar Technology and Engineering	Mr. J. Dupont de Rivaltz de St. Antoine, B.S.
Assistant Lecturer in Chemistry	Mr. S. Belcourt, Dip. Agric. (Maur.).
Assistant Lecturer in Biology and Agriculture	Mr. P. Guerandel, Dip. Agric. (Maur.).

Mr. J. R. Lagesse was appointed Acting Principal.

In January, the Sugarcane Research Station moved into its new buildings, and the part of the building which it had occupied was redistributed to meet the demand made on the College floor space and accommodation by the increasing number of students to be admitted.

New Biology and Physics laboratories were planned and work was started on them soon afterwards. The new laboratories will be put into service in January, 1951. A certain amount of new equipment will be required for

modernisation, but it will not be available for some time to come as the cost of scientific apparatus is prohibitive at present. The students are not prevented, however, from doing very good work with the existing equipment.

The beneficial effect of the reorganization will be felt only after 1952, when students will graduate for the first time under the new scheme.

7. Special Lectures

A series of 8 lectures on Tropical Agriculture was delivered by Professor R. Cerighelli of the Faculty of Tropical Sciences of the University of Marseilles. The lectures were attended by large audiences, including many outsiders in addition to the College students, who followed the lectures with keen interest.

It was the first time in the annals of the College that such an event had taken place, and we are deeply indebted to the French Consul for having made the arrangements which enabled Professor Cerighelli to come to Mauritius.

8. Visit to Reunion Island by the Acting Principal

Mr. R. Lagesse, the Acting Principal, spent a week in Reunion on the invitation of the French Authorities in accordance with the terms of the Mauritius—Reunion Convention. The visit took place at the beginning of November, and Mr. Lagesse was able to settle with the Educational Authorities of Reunion certain intricate questions concerning the standard of teaching required in order to allow Reunion students to follow our first year course without undue difficulty as regards both the subject matter and the medium of teaching.

The Acting Principal was able to see for himself those industries at present flourishing in Reunion which could be studied with great benefit by our students, if the projected one week visit to Reunion by second year students ever materialized, and thus completes their study of Tropical Agriculture.

9. Advisory Board of the College of Agriculture

The Advisory Board of the College for 1950 was constituted as follows:—

The Director of Agriculture—*Chairman.*

Nominated by His Excellency the Governor from among the members of the Board of Agriculture

The Honourable P. N. A. Harel

The Honourable H. G. Robinson, C.B.E.

Mr. P. G. Anthony

Mr. Fernand Leclezio.

Nominated by the " Société des Chimistes de Maurice "

Mr. P. de Sornay, Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur

Mr. R. Advice.

Nominated by the Chamber of Agriculture

Mr. R. Hein

Mr. L. Baissac.

Four meetings of the Board were held during the year under review.

10. Visits

The College was visited during the year 1950 by the following persons:—

From Reunion Island: Messrs. Rippert, Chatel, Payet, Mariotti, Clerensac de la Giroday and Carrere.

From Madagascar : Messrs. Segalen, Ferrier and Professor Millot.

From South Africa : Dr. Dodds, Dr. Douwesdekker, Messrs. Grant and Robbins.

11. Finances

The annexures show the financial operations during the financial year 1949–50.

J. René Lagesse,
Acting Principal,
College of Agriculture.

7th May, 1951.

Annexure I

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of the Mauritius College of Agriculture for the Financial Year 1949–50

	Rs.	c.
Receipts: Proceeds of tax under Ordinance No. 2 of 1922 and Ordinance No. 42 of 1949, Schedules and Lecturers' fees, Grant to Agricultural College Fund, etc. ...	275,478	36
Expenditure	101,824	01

5474/10/51—455

Agricultural College Fund as at 30th June, 1950

Receipts

	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Available balance on 1.7.49		79,665 52
Proceeds of tax under Ord. 2 of 1922 and Ord. 42 of 1949 :—		
Special export duty on sugar from 1.7.49 to 30.6.50	140,537 71	
Schedules and Lecturers' fees, etc.	3,347 12	
Grant to Agricultural College Fund :—		
Special Warrant No. 10/1949-50 ...	130,000 00	
Expenditure refunded	1,593 53	
		275,478 36
		355,143 88

Disbursements

	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Apparatus, books and other laboratory supplies ...	11,031 24	
Upkeep of nursery and grounds	2,846 90	
Scholarship allowances	360 00	
Laureateships	33,210 70	
Contribution to Agricultural College Sports Club.	100 00	
Contribution to Association of Former Agricultural Students	100 00	
Travelling	1,129 39	
Transport	94 64	
Incidentals	5,626 48	
Salary and War bonus Principal and Lecturer in Biology etc., and others	14,658 73	
Contribution towards part salary of the Director of Agriculture	3,000 00	
Contribution towards salaries and allowances of certain Officers of the Department of Agriculture	24,841 00	
Contribution towards pension of certain Officers.	4,317 00	
Refund amount overpaid as export duty	507 93	
		101,824 01
Balance on 30.6.50		253,319 87
		355,143 88

7th May, 1951.

J. René LAGESSE,
Acting Principal, College of Agriculture.